

From: Russ Cannon
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Comment on Microsoft Settlement

I was deeply displeased with the lawsuit that the government brought against Microsoft. It has always been my view that antitrust laws were political weapons. It seems to me that there are many megacorporations that deserve antitrust scrutiny, but the selection of which companies to go after always seems to serve some political end.

I have no great love for Microsoft, but I am altogether opposed to antitrust laws. It is impossible for any government to enforce such laws without bias in favor of political cronies and contributors. Monopolies abound in our economy, but one wonders why antitrust litigation is not brought more often. Perhaps it is because most companies know how to cozy up to political parties to obtain a pass on antitrust scrutiny.

In the case of Microsoft, one cannot exclude the possibility that the government sought to plunder its large cash reserves in a sort of punitive tax on success. The entire lawsuit should be dropped. Failing this, the proposed settlement should be adopted by all parties as soon as possible, and the whole sordid mess should be put to rest.

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